Claims

[c1]   A network based method for facilitating providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said method comprising:

receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service;

providing the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data;

receiving a customer response based on the budgetary quote; and

providing the customer a contractual quote based on the received customer response.

[c2]   A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service comprises receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service.

[c3]   A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising prompting the customer to select a desired language from a plurality of languages.

[c4]   A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data comprises:

publishing the budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository; and

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote.

[c5]   A network based method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein providing the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data further comprises:

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receiving a customer response comprising at least one of a message to the manufacturer and a request for a contractual quote.

[c6]
          A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing the

customer a contractual quote based on the received data comprises:

publishing the contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML contractual quote in a quote repository; and

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote.

[c7]   A network based method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein providing the customer a contractual quote based on the received data further comprises:

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receiving a customer response comprising at least one of a message to a manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

[c8]   A network based method for facilitating providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a medical product and a medical service, said method comprising:

receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service;

publishing a budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository;

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote;

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL;

receiving a customer response based on the budgetary quote;

publishing a contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML contractual quote in a quote repository;

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote;

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and receiving a customer response comprising at least one of a message to a manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

[c9] A network based system for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said system comprising:

at least one device; and

a server connected to said device and configured to:

receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service;

provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data;

receive a customer response based on the budgetary quote; and

provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received customer response.

[c10] A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service, said server further configured to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service.

[c11] A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said server further configured to prompt a customer to select a desired language from a plurality of languages.

[c12] A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

publish the budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote.

[c13]   A network based system in accordance with Claim 12 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to the manufacturer and a request for a contractual quote.

[c14]   A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

publish the contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote.

[c15]   A network based system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to a manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

[c16]

A network based system for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said system comprising:

at least one device; and

a server connected to said device and configured to:

receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service;

publish a budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository;

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a

Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote;

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL;

receive a customer response based on the budgetary quote;

publish a contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository;

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote;

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to a manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

[c17]   A computer readable medium encoded with a program executable by a computer for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said program configured to instruct the computer to:

receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service;

provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data;

receive a customer response based on the budgetary quote; and

provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received customer response.

[c18]   A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service, said medium further configured to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service.

[c19]   A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said medium further configured to prompt a customer to select a desired language from a plurality of languages.

[c20]   A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

publish the budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote.

[c21]   A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to the manufacturer and a request for a contractual quote.

[c22]   A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

publish the contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote.

[c23]   A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 22 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to a manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

[c24]   A computer readable medium encoded with a program executable by a
          computer for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a
          manufactured product and a service, said program configured to instruct the
          computer to:

          receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and
          a customer desired medical service;

          publish a budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

          load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository;

          send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a
          Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary
          quote;

          provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

          receive a customer response based on the budgetary quote;

          publish a contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

          load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository;

          send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a
          Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published
          contractual quote;

          provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

          receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to a
          manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the
          contractual quote.